

Kill Bill character inspires the name of a new parasitoid wasp species

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This image shows a close up of *Cystomastacoides kiddo*, named after Beatrix Kiddo, a protagonist from Tarantino's "Kill Bill." Credit: Buntika Butcher and Donald L. J. Quicke

Parasitoid wasps of the family [Braconidae](#) are known for their deadly reproductive habits. Most of the representatives of this group have their

eggs developing in other insects and their larvae, eventually killing the respective host, or in some cases immobilizing it or causing its sterility. Three new species of the parasitoid wasp genus *Cystomastacoides*, recently described in the *Journal of Hymenoptera Research*, reflect this fatal behavior.

Two of the new [species](#) were discovered in [Papua New Guinea](#), while the third one comes from Thailand. The Thai species, *Cystomastacoides kiddo*, was named after the character [Beatrix Kiddo](#) in Quentin Tarantino's 'Kill Bill' films. The deadly biology of the wasp inspired this reference to the protagonist played by Uma Thurman, where she embodies a deadly assassin and a master of the Tiger/Crane style of kung fu. She is a master of the "Five Point Palm Exploding Heart Technique", a method of killing a person by quickly striking five pressure points around the heart with the fingertips. After the victim takes five steps, the heart explodes and the person falls dead.



This picture shows, *Cystomastacoides nicolepeelerae*, named after the lead author's favorite novelist Nicole Peeler. Credit: Buntika Butcher and Donald L. J. Quicke

The macabre in the name of one of the new species from Papua New Guinea references back to another strand of contemporary pop culture: *Cystomastacoides nicolepeelerae* is named after [Nicole Peeler](#), the favourite novelist of Donald Quicke, the lead author of this article.

Peeler's writing deals with murder mystery, dark powers, the subconscious and the supernatural. The name of the third species, *Cystomastacoides asotaphaga*, also from Papua New Guinea, lacks the popular culture element but still brings up the deadly survival techniques of the [wasps](#) described. In translation, it means feeding on [Asota](#), described genus of moths whose caterpillar is eaten from the inside by the wasp's larva and thus eventually killed.



This picture shows, *Cystomastacoides asotaphaga*, which means feeding on the moth genus *Asota*. Credit: Buntika Butcher and Donald L. J. Quicke

[Asota plana](#) is the first host record for the genus to which the new species belong. It is a widespread moth species known to feed on

multiple fig tree (*Ficus*) species. With three new species from Papua New Guinea and Thailand, this paper also extends the known range of the genus considerably. Previously, *Cystomastacoides* had been known only from a single species, *Cystomastacoides coxalis*, which was found only in mainland China ([Yunnan](#)).

More information: Quicke DLJ, Smith MA, Hrcek J, Butcher BA (2013) *Cystomastacoides* van Achterberg (Braconidae, Rogadinae): first host record and descriptions of three new species from Thailand and Papua New Guinea. *Journal of Hymenoptera Research* 31: 65, [doi: 10.3897/JHR.31.3385](#)

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